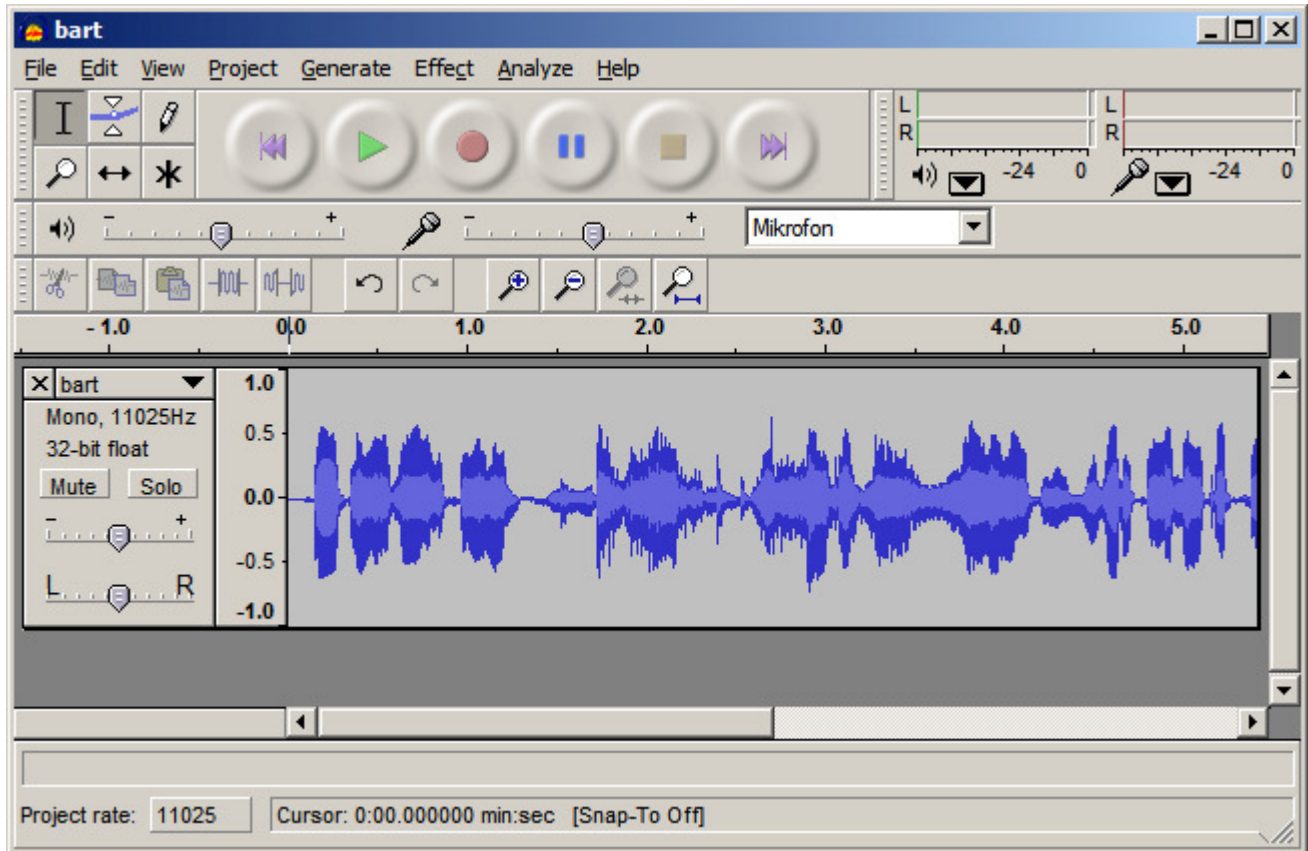


Audacity Tutorial

In this tutorial you will learn how to edit sound clips using Audacity. Upon finishing it you will have skills necessary to record sounds, trim, combine and export sound clips, and more.

"Audacity is perfect for amateurs or professionals who want to do things fast, with a 2 or 3 step procedure..."

...it is a free multitrack editor, which are not so easy to find anyway. Give it a try."



Initial Setup

Installation

Native installation packages for your platform can be downloaded from [Audacity Download](http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/) (<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/>).

Mp3 Export

The first time you attempt to export an audio clip into mp3, you may be asked to locate the file lame_enc.dll; to obtain a copy, go to [Lame library download](#).

Preferences

The default settings is suitable for most purposes; if you wish to view or change any settings, go to Edit > Preferences.

Basics

Controls

Take a few moments to review the controls.

The program window consists of toolbars at the top of the window and a larger track view section, that displays tracks in your project.

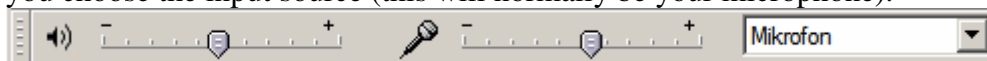
Control Toolbar

Notice two leftmost buttons; the top one is the **Selection Tool** and the bottom one is the **Zoom Tool**. Round buttons are used for playback control, the red dot starts recording.



Mixer Toolbar

Left slider controls **Playback Volume**, the right one **Recording Volume**, and the dropdown lets you choose the input source (this will normally be your microphone).



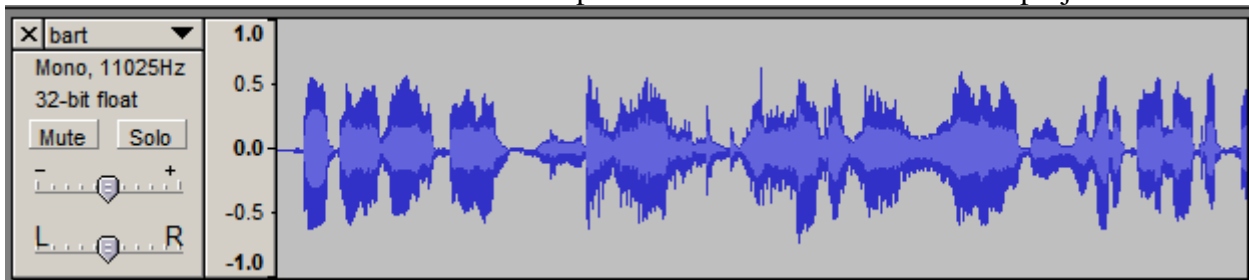
Edit Toolbar

Edit Toolbar provides shortcuts to: **Cut, Copy, Past, Trim Outside Selection, Silence Selection, Undo, Redo, Zoom In, Zoom Out, Fit Selection, Fit Project.**



Track View

The track section provides a convenient view of the tracks in your project. The waveform indicates the volume level. Use the "X" in top left corner to remove track from project.



Import

Recording Voice

Make sure the microphone is connected to the computer. Select Microphone as the Input Source. Simply press the red button on the Control Toolbar. When you're finished recording, press the yellow stop button. Before recording for the first time, experiment with the microphone positioning and recording level (slider with a mic symbol).

Use Existing Sound Files

Simply choose Project > Import Audio and navigate to the sound file you want to use. Once Audacity is done importing the file, it will appear as a new track. No changes will be done to the original file; however, until you export your final clip, do not move the imported sound files.

Music from a CD

In order to use sound from an audio CD, you need to capture the particular track first; that can be done using Windows Media Player or another "grabbing" tool.

Edit

Editing consists of selecting segments of tracks and applying actions or effects to them, this way you can easily remove unwanted parts, add your own voice recording to a music track, combine parts of multiple tracks together, and more. Until you save your project, any editing can be undone. Once you master several basic skills, you will have a powerful tool at your hands.

Selection

Being able to select segments from a track is a crucial skill in editing sound clips, follow these steps:

1. Make sure the selection tool is active
2. Click somewhere on the track waveform and drag until you have selected the desired segment
3. Release the mouse button

To make sure you selected the right part, you can replay the selection (click the green round play button).

To adjust the selection:

1. Move the cursor over the start or end of the selection until it becomes a pointing finger
2. Click and drag to change the selection
3. Repeat those steps until you are satisfied.

Additionally, to perform a selection you can place the selection cursor somewhere on the waveform by single-clicking, and go to Edit > Select > Start to Cursor or Cursor to End.

Editing

Deleting

To delete a segment choose Edit > Delete or press the Del button.

Cutting

To cut a segment out choose Edit > Cut.

Pasting

To paste a segment choose Edit > Paste.

Fade In/Fade Out

To have the volume increase or decrease gradually, choose Effects > Fade In or Fade Out.

Export

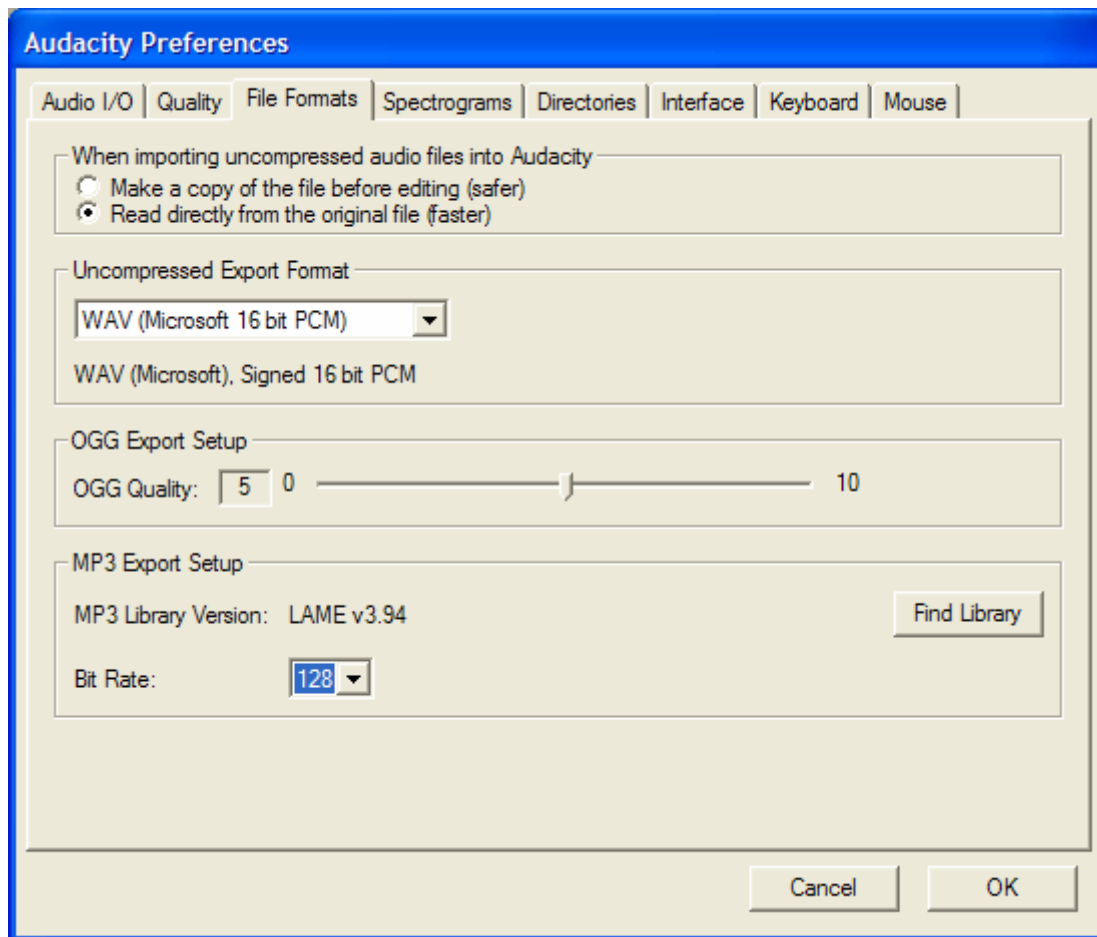
Sound File vs. Project

Audacity works with project files; those cannot be opened by other software. In order for others to be able to play your sound clip, you need to export it first.

Exporting sound clips

Preferred format for exporting sound clips will be mp3; mp3 reduces file size considerably allowing for easy transfer over a network, it can be played on any computer. The quality/file size is determined by the bit rate: the lower the bit rate, the smaller the file size but also lower quality. Before exporting, adjust the bit rate settings accordingly (choose Edit > Preferences... File formats tab):

- 128kbps is well suitable for music
- 32kbps provides reasonable quality for voice recordings



If you are especially concerned about the quality of your sound clips, you can choose to use higher bit rates.

Once you are finished editing your sound clip, go to File > Export MP3 and select a file name and location for the exported file.

Congratulations! You have finished a basic Audacity Tutorial, for more information; go to the [Audacity Documentation Website](#).

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